## CLAIMS

## We claim:

- 1 1. Method for controlling the layout of collaboration
- 2 space user interface components, comprising the steps of:
- 3 rendering individually addressable and placing on a
- 4 page each said user interface component; and
- 5 rendering components on said page equivalent to
- 6 collaboration space tags for importation into said
- 7 collaboration space for use in instantiating said user
- 8 interface.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, said page being an HTML page and
- 2 said collaboration space being a place.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, said place being a file
- 2 directory.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- 2 dragging and dropping said page from a user desktop to
- an output control for uploading to a collaboration
- 4 space server.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
- 2 organizing said collaboration space according to an object
- 3 model selectively including place, room, folder, page,
- 4 member, form, field, placetype, roomtype, skin, and placebot
- 5 objects.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, said user interface components
- 2 including logo, table of contents, action bar, tool bar, and
- 3 page content.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, said tags further providing
- links to other collaboration space resources.

- 1 8. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
- 2 integrating said collaboration space with an existing
- 3 web site by including in said page links to network
- 4 resources.
- 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- 2 uploading said pages to a server for caching in a cache
- 3 of skin groups; and
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- 2 presenting to said user users a gallery of themes from
- 3 which to choose and optionally tweek a visual site
- 4 design for rendering said collaboration space to said
- 5 user.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps
- 2 of:
- tweaking a theme by selecting basic property changes LOT9 2000 0021 US1 120

- 4 through said user interface to specific classes of said
- 5 style sheet; and
- 6 operating a collaboration space server to feed said
- 7 changes to said style sheet.
- 1 12. A method for controlling the style and layout of a
- 2 collaboration space user interface, comprising the steps of:
- 3 specifying component positioning in said user interface
- in a set of hypertext markup language pages; and
- 5 specifying font, size and color style in a common style
- 6 sheet page.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps
- 2 of:
- 3 rendering each said component on said hypertext markup
- 4 language pages individually addressable.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps
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- 2 of:
- 3 rendering in a skin group said hypertext markup
- 4 language and style sheet pages responsive to
- 5 collaboration space tags; and
- 6 responsive to a user request, importing said skin group
- 7 into a place for instantiating said user interface.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of
- 2 providing links from said skin group to other collaboration
- 3 space and system resources.
- 1 16. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:
- 2 responsive to said skin group, rendering said
- 3 collaboration space to said user through said user
- 4 interface.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps
- 2 of:

- presenting to said user users a gallery of skin groups
  from which to choose a visual site design for
  expressing the identity and suiting the work to be done
  by a project or team.
- 1 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of
- presenting to said user users a gallery of skin groups
  from which to choose a visual site design for
  rebranding a collaboration space for inhouse
  applications.
- 1 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of
- presenting said collaboration space to said user
  through a skin group tailored to the identity of said
  user.
- 1 20. The method of claim 19, said skin group structuring
- 2 said interface for communication with a physically
- 3 challenged user.

- 1 21. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps
- 2 of:
- developing a theme for applying a common look and feel
- 4 to multiple layouts by applying code from one layout to
- 5 all layouts for which a file has not been explicitly
- 6 supplied.
- 1 22. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps
- 2 of:
- 3 including in said gallery of themes a default style
- 4 sheet including a plurality of selectors;
- for specific selectors in a user style sheet tweaked by
- 6 said user, changing said specific selectors; and
- 7 for other selectors in said user style sheet not
- 8 tweaked by said user, using a corresponding selector
- from said default style sheet in said user style sheet.
- 1 23. System for controlling the style and layout of a
- 2 collaboration space user interface, comprising:

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- at least one hypertext markup language page and at
- 4 least one common style sheet page;
- 5 said hypertext markup language page for specifying
- 6 components positioning within said user interface; and
- 7 said common style sheet page specifying font, size and
- 8 color style for said components.
- 1 24. The system of claim 23, further comprising:
- an output control for receiving said pages from a
- 3 local storage for uploading to a collaboration space
- 4 server.
- 1 25. The system of claim 24, further comprising:
- a drag and drop facility for dragging and dropping said
- 3 pages from a desktop to said output control.
- 1 26. The system of claim 24, said collaboration space server
- 2 converting said hypertext markup language pages and style
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- 3 sheet to a skin group by applying collaboration space tags
- 4 to said hypertext markup languages pages.
- 1 27. The system of claim 23, said collaboration space being
- 2 structured according to an object model selectively
- including place, room, folder, page, member, form, field,
- 4 placetype, roomtype, skin, and placebot objects.
- 1 28. The system of claim 23, said components including logo,
- table of contents, actions, tools, and page content.
- 1 29. The system of claim 26, said skin group comprising a
- 2 page read mode, page edit mode, a folder list and response,
- a folder headline, and a folder slide show pages and a style
- 4 sheet page for defining said look and feel of said user
- 5 interface and for providing links to other collaboration
- 6 space resources.
- 1 30. The system of claim 27, further comprising:
- 2 a main room having a first theme for defining its look
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- 3 and feel;
- 4 a subroom linked to said main room;
- 5 said subroom inheriting said first theme unless a
- 6 custom theme has been defined for said subroom.
- 1 31. A program storage device readable by a machine,
- 2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
- 3 machine to perform method steps for controlling the layout
- 4 of collaboration space user interface components, said
- 5 method steps comprising:
- 6 rendering individually addressable and placing on a
- 7 page each said user interface component; and
- 8 rendering components on said page equivalent to
- 9 collaboration space tags for importation into said
- 10 collaboration space for use in instantiating said user
- interface.
  - 1 32. A program storage device readable by a machine,
  - tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a LOT9 2000 0021 US1 127

- 3 machine to perform method steps for controlling the style
- 4 and layout of a collaboration space user interface, said
- 5 method steps comprising:
- 6 specifying component positioning in said user interface
- 7 in a set of hypertext markup language pages; and
- 8 specifying font, size and color style in a common style
- 9 sheet page.
- 1 33. A computer program product or computer program element
- 2 for rendering individually addressable and placing on a page
- 3 each said user interface component; and rendering components
- 4 on said page equivalent to collaboration space tags for
- 5 importation into said collaboration space for use in
- 6 instantiating said user interface.
- 1 34. A computer program product or computer program element
- 2 for controlling the style and layout of a collaboration
- 3 space user interface by specifying component positioning in
- 4 said user interface in a set of hypertext markup language
- 5 pages; and specifying font, size and color style in a common style sheet page.

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